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GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

USAid vows continued support for BIR computerization program

(Source: SunStar Dumaguete News Online – 1/26/08)

UNITED States Agency for International Development (USAid) Philippines Mission Director Jon Lindborg assured that USAid would continue supporting the Nationwide Rollout of Computerized Systems (NRCS) Program of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Lindborg stressed that as long as the government is good enough to use the taxes properly, this can translate into the construction of school buildings, air and seaports, highways and social services.

The computerized systems will result in the building up of a comprehensive database that will support the bureau's collection and enforcement efforts, especially in the development of cases against tax evaders under the Run After the Tax Evaders (Rate) Program.

With the rollout of four computer systems in Dumaguete City, the registration, collection, returns processing, and taxpayer accounting will be automated, reducing transaction time for taxpayers.

Linborg also reported the gains achieved by the Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines Threshold Program (MCA-PTP), among which are the Ombudsman achieving a 35 percent conviction rate for the last quarter of 2007, and the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (Rips) of the Department of Finance (DOF) filing 21 corruption cases against employees of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs during the same period.

The OMB, Rips, BIR and BOC all receive technical and funding support from the MCA-PTP.

The MCA-PTP is a Philippine government initiative to reduce corruption and improve revenue administration. It is funded by a US\$20 million grant provided by the Millennium Challenge Corporation and administered by the Usaid. **(Press release)**